

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process for combating acarids in the storage of cereals, comprising placing the cereals in contact with a powder comprising more than 40% by weight of sodium bicarbonate, wherein said cereals are infested with acarids and wherein the powder has an acaricidal effect on the cereal such that the powder when in direct contact with the acarids induces at least 43% of death of acarids after 10 days.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the cereals are stored in a silo and the powder is projected onto the walls of the silo.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein at least 90% of the granules that constitute the powder have a diameter of less than 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 13, wherein the diameter is less than 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder comprises at least 95% of sodium bicarbonate.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder is free of neurotoxic substances.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder has a combined acaricidal and insecticidal effect on the cereal.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder comprises at least 1% by weight of silica.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 18, wherein the silica is silica gel.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder has a combined acaricidal, fungicidal and insecticidal effect on the cereal.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder consists essentially of sodium bicarbonate.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A process for combating acarids, comprising contacting acarids with a powder comprising more than 40% by weight of sodium bicarbonate the powder when in direct contact with the acarids induces at least 43% of death of acarids after 10 days.

Claim 24 (New) The process according to Claim 18, wherein the powder comprises at least 4% by weight of silica.

Claim 25 (New) The process according to Claim 11, wherein the powder when in direct contact with the acarids induces at least 95% of death of acarids after 10 days.